Would You Survive?

*[*Fathom *used to include a regular department called "COB's Corner." The article that follows begins a new department, which, like its predecessor, is dedicated to matters of submarine safety. Let us know if you like it or not. Inputs from the fleet are welcomed and encouraged.—Ed.]*

By FTC(SS) Jay Bramble, Naval Safety Center

Analysis has shown the most likely scenario today will be a submarine that sinks in shallow water because of flooding in the engineroom. It will take two to seven days to get a rescue ship to the stranded vessel. The criteria everyone is working toward is having a submarine crew able to survive on the bottom up to seven days before rescue.

Here is a checklist you need to review to ensure your best chance of survival:

✔ Relearn all the escape training you received in SubSchool.

✔ Because it's likely your engineroom will be flooded, move your LiOH canisters forward. (NavSea is formalizing this recommendation.) Look at your upcoming ops, and decide if you need more canisters.

✔ Take a round turn on hatch PMS[1]. Ask yourself these questions: Does your hatch open easily, or does it take three men and a small boy to do the job? Will it open at 450 feet, and do you know how to open and shut the hatch during an escape?

✔ Do you have change 1/A[2] to the *Submarine Atmosphere Control Manual?*

✔ Make sure your Steinke hoods are in good shape. If you're going to do a free ascent, they'll have to work.

Think of survival equipment like this: The Navy would not have taken the time or spent the money to put such equipment aboard if it wasn't needed.

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For More Info…

[1] Hatch maintenance is outlined in MIP A-080/905-C8, MRC 24M-1R.

[2] Change 1/A to the Submarine Atmosphere Control Manual allows the senior person to make critical decisions about whether to wait for rescue or attempt an escape.